

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-2 and 4-6 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claim 3 is being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 1-2 and 4-6 are being amended to correct formal errors, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

Additional Amendments

The specification and abstract are being amended. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Objections

Specification

The specification was objected to on the grounds of failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. As set forth above, claim 2 is being amended so that it has proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

The Examiner further asserted that the ranges of amounts of Component A and Component B are not disclosed in the specification. As set forth above, the specification is being amended by adding the recitations of the original claims 1-3 with the amendments as suggested by the Examiner into the written description. The original claims 1-3 are a part of the specification. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being introduced through the amendment of the specification, and the amended specification supports the ranges of the amounts of Component A and Component B as recited in the amended claims 1-2.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to on the grounds of informalities. As suggested by the Examiner, the Abstract of the Disclosure is being amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

It is noted that Applicants do not intend to limit the claimed scope by this amending of the Abstract of the Disclosure.

Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6 were objected to on the grounds of the informalities. As mentioned above, claim 3 is being canceled and now being incorporated into claim 1. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are being amended so as to meet the formalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Formal Rejections

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As mentioned above, claim 3 is being canceled and now being incorporated into claim 1. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are being amended so as to meet the formalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejection

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Each of claims 1 and 4-6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ichikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,284,433). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1, 4-6

Each of claims 1 and 4-6 recites that the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition. In contrast, Ichikawa does not show or suggest this feature. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art could not and would not achieve all the features as recited in claims 1 and 4-6. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-6 are not obvious in view of Ichikawa.

Claim 2

As to dependent claim 2, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claim 2 must also be allowable.

Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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